

MASTERING METAPHOR:

USING COMPARATIVE LANGUAGE TO UNIFY AND ENRICH YOUR LYRICS

SUMMARY:

This class deals with the often misunderstood comparison called a Metaphor. Metaphors are common in every day language but they usually go unnoticed. We talk of “the world stage”, a “war of words” or a “sea of doubt” but we seldom think about the origins of these strange, non-literal phrases.

We use Metaphors because some things are more easily explained with them. Understanding them is essential for great lyric writing. They invent fresh comparisons, make leaps of the imagination, and provide depth and emotion in lyrics. They are also rich in associative connections and they can unify a lyric in ways no other device can.

But Metaphor can be the device that gets lyricists into the most trouble when the figure of speech is misunderstood or poorly used.

This class focuses on how to recognize the potential of a rich comparison; when to extend a Metaphor and when to leave it alone for maximum effect. Examples from modern lyrics will be used for illustration.

CLASS LENGTH: Approximately 2.5 hours including discussion and Q&A.

THIS SEMINAR IS BEST SUITED FOR: All groups interested in the finer art of lyric writing, whether for pleasure or for professional purposes.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: An understanding of basic lyric structure. No musical skill or professional experience required.

VARIATIONS AVAILABLE: Also offered as an “A La Carte” seminar in shorter length.

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